

Climate Extremes Committee Recommendation Form

Recommendation Number: 4

National Extreme Event Category: Largest Hailstone

Extreme Event Evaluated (include value, location and date of occurrence):

Hailstone fell on the northeast side of Aurora, Nebraska or approximately ½ mile northeast of the junction of US Highway 34 and Nebraska Highway 14. Time: 7 pm CDT on June 22, 2003.
Diameter of 7.0 inches. Circumference of 18.75 inches.

Current Accepted Record (value, location, date): Diameter of 5.7 Inches. Circumference of 17.5 inches. This event occurred in Coffeyville, Kansas on September 3, 1970.

Committee Members (include affiliation, name, area of expertise):

Permanent:

NCDC: Jay Lawrimore, NCDC

NWS/OCWS: Andy Horvitz, Coop Program Manager

AASC: Kelly Redmond, Deputy Director, WRCC

Invited for this event only:

NWS: WFO- Hastings, NE. Steven Kisner, Rick Ewald

NWS: CRH - Michael Looney, Tom Townsend

Others consulted:

NCAR: Nancy Knight

Committee Vote:

Accept: 6

Reject: 0

Committee Recommendation (Accept/Reject): Accept

Committee Comments: The committee unanimously recommends acceptance of this June 22 Aurora, Nebraska hailstone as the largest* hailstone ever collected and measured in the U.S, based on diameter and circumference. The diameter and circumference exceed the previous record measured in Coffeyville, Kansas on September 3, 1970. Measurements and pictures of the Aurora stone (attached) were taken by the NWS Forecast Office in Hastings, NE.

*This hailstone does not establish a new record for the heaviest hailstone. It was not possible to establish an accurate weight for the Aurora stone, because a chunk of the stone hit the gutter of a house resulting in the loss of approximately 40 percent of the stone. The estimate for the portion

that remained was 0.98 pounds. Additional loss of mass likely occurred due to melting of the stone before freezing conditions were applied. The Coffeyville hailstone of 1970 weighed 1.67 pounds and will retain the designation of heaviest hailstone weighed and verified in the United States.

Submitted by (Committee chairman): signature _____ : date _____

Director, NCDC Approve/Disapprove _____ : signature _____ :
date _____

Director, NCDC comments:

